



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

JAN 13 2003

B-19J

Roger E. Roche, P.E.  
District Engineer  
District 2, Illinois DOT  
819 Depot Avenue  
Dixon, Illinois 61021

**RE: Milan Beltway Extension (FAU 5822) Airport Road to Blackhawk Road/John Deere Expressway, CEQ number 020467**

Dear Mr. Roche:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Milan Beltway Extension (FAU 5822) Airport Road to Blackhawk Road/John Deere Expressway Rock Island County, Illinois. The purpose and need for the proposed project is to connect the developing area south of Rock River and the urbanized area north of the river. There is also a need to address present and projected traffic volumes by providing for a new crossing over the Rock River. The proposed action consists of construction of approximately 2 miles of four-lane access-controlled divided highway crossing the Rock River by connecting the Milan Beltway to the John Deere Expressway. Only two alternatives were considered for the proposal, the preferred and no action. The preferred alternative will result in the displacement of five residences and eleven businesses, permanent loss of 22.3 acres of wetlands, removal of 16.2 acres of forested areas, and filling of 26.7 acres of Rock River floodplain.

Based on the information provided in this document our Agency has a lack of objection "LO" to the build alternatives and to the proposed project overall. This "LO" rating indicates that we believe that the proposed project will result in minimum adverse impacts to the environment with appropriate mitigation and that we did not identify any outstanding environmental issues that need additional analysis. This rating will be published in the Federal Register.